

IN THE CLAIMS

1. - 37. (canceled)

38. (previously presented) An apparatus for determining the condition of a region of tissue comprising:

(A) a cup having an interior, and first and second openings;

(B) a current-passing electrode disposed within the interior; and

(C) a source of suction connectable to the first opening; and

wherein when the second opening is placed over a region of tissue, an electroconductive medium is disposed within the interior for facilitating an electrical connection between the region of tissue to be examined and the electrode and suction is applied to the first opening, an electrical connection is made between the region of tissue to be examined and the electrode via the electroconductive medium; and wherein:

(1) the tissue is epithelium containing tissue;

(2) the electroconductive medium is in combination with at least one pharmacological agent; and the pharmacological agent induces a challenge test of the epithelium containing tissue.

39. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 38 wherein the pharmacological agent is selected from the group consisting of agonists, antagonists, hormones and mixtures thereof.

40. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the hormone is selected from the group consisting of prolactin, estradiol and mixtures thereof.

41. - 43. (canceled)